

Revised Claims

(These revised claims replace all prior versions of the claims in this application)

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for identifying a chemical moiety from a sample solution, comprising:
  - (a) a substrate having a channel with at least one array for capturing and releasing a chemical moiety from a sample solution; and
  - (b) a solid state nanopore system downstream from the substrate for identifying the chemical moiety received from the ~~substrate~~ channel after the chemical moiety has been released from the at least one array, the nanopore system comprising
    - i. a first ring electrode,
    - ii. a second ring electrode adjacent to the first ring electrode;
    - iii. a nanopore adjacent to the first ring electrode and the second ring electrode and positioned to allow the chemical moiety to be positioned in the first ring electrode and the second ring electrode; and
    - iv. a voltage source for electrically connecting the first ring electrode to the second ring electrode for applying a ramping potential from the first ring electrode, through a portion of the chemical moiety in the nanopore to ~~a~~ the second ring electrode to produce a signal indicative of the portion of the chemical moiety.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a second substrate for positioning the first ring electrode and the second ring electrode.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least a ~~first~~ second substrate for positioning the first ring electrode.
4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least a ~~second~~ third substrate for positioning the second ~~substrate~~ ring electrode.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising at least a ~~first~~ second substrate for positioning the ~~a~~ nanopore.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, further comprising a ~~means for signal detection~~ detector for detecting the signal produced ~~from~~ from the portion of the ~~biopolymer~~ chemical moiety.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the channel is a micro fluidic channel.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one array comprises a probe.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim ~~1~~8, wherein the probe comprises a nucleic acid molecule.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim ~~1~~8, wherein the probe comprises a protein molecule.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim ~~1~~8, wherein the probe comprises a carbohydrate.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim ~~1~~8, wherein the probe comprises a polysaccharide.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a material selected from the group consisting of silicon, plastic, rubber, glass, metal, and combinations thereof.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim ~~27~~27, wherein the dimension of the micro fluidic channel is 100 microns or less.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein the ~~target~~  
portion of the chemical moiety comprises an oligonucleotide.
16. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus of claim 1, wherein the at least one array  
comprises more than 100 features.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus of claim 1, wherein the substrate may be  
flexible or rigid.
18. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus of claim 1, ~~which further comprises~~  
comprising at least one valves in the channel that permits different fluids to be directed  
into the channel.
19. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus of claim 1, ~~which further comprises~~  
comprising a temperature control device to provide a temperature controlled  
environment.
20. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus of claim 1, ~~which further comprises~~  
comprising means to move ~~the~~ fluids through the at least one array.
21. (Withdrawn) A method for separating and identifying a chemical moiety,  
comprising:
- (a) contacting a solution comprising a target molecule to a probe positioned in a  
channel of a substrate;
  - (b) capturing the target molecule from the sample by contacting the target  
molecule to the probe;
  - (c) releasing the target molecule from the probe; and
  - (d) identifying the target molecule translocating through the nanopore system by  
applying a ramping electrical current from a first ring electrode through a portion of the  
chemical moiety to a second ring electrode to identify a portion of the chemical moiety  
positioned in the nanopore.

22. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the electrical current is a tunneling current with an energy level that matches at least one conduction band energy of a portion of the chemical moiety.
23. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 25, wherein the tunneling current is on resonance with the conduction band energies of a portion of the chemical moiety.
24. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 24, further comprising translocating the chemical moiety through the nanopore to identify each of the translocating portions of the chemical moiety.
25. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the order of release of the target molecule is the same as the order of binding of the target molecule to the probe.
26. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the order of elution of the target molecule is opposite of the order of binding of the target molecule to the probe.
27. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the step of releasing the target molecules involves heating portions of the array.
28. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the target molecules are not labeled prior to introduction to the array.
29. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the solution contacting the probes may comprise target molecules from more than one sample and the samples are differentially labeled.
30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for identifying a chemical moiety from a sample solution, comprising:

(a) a substrate having a channel with at least one array for capturing a chemical moiety from a sample solution; and

(b) a solid state nanopore system downstream from the substrate for identifying the chemical moiety received from the ~~substrate~~ channel after the chemical moiety has been released from the at least one array, the nanopore system comprising

i. a first electrode having a first nanopore,

ii. a second electrode, adjacent to the first electrode, having a second nanopore, wherein the first nanopore of the first electrode is positioned with the second nanopore of the second electrode so that the chemical moiety may translocate through the first nanopore and the second nanopore; and

iii. a voltage source for electrically connecting the first electrode to the second electrode for applying a ramping potential from the first electrode, through a portion of the chemical moiety in the first nanopore and the second nanopore to a the second electrode to produce a signal indicative of the portion of the chemical moiety.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 303, wherein the first nanopore and the second ~~nanopores~~nanopore have center points and wherein the center point of the first nanopore is positioned coaxially with the center point of the second ~~electrode~~ nanopore.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 303, wherein the first electrode is positioned above the second electrode.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 303, further comprising a second substrate for positioning ~~30~~ the first electrode and the second electrode.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 33, further comprising at least a ~~second~~ third substrate for positioning the second electrode.

35. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for identifying a chemical moiety from a sample solution, comprising:

(a) a substrate having a channel with at least one array for capturing a chemical moiety from a sample solution; and

(b) a solid state nanopore system downstream from the substrate for identifying the chemical moiety received from the ~~substrate~~-channel after the chemical moiety has been released from the at least one array, the nanopore system comprising

i. a first electrode,

ii. a second electrode spaced from the first electrode to define a nanopore between the first electrode and the second electrode, the nanopore designed for receiving a ~~tranlocating~~ translocating chemical moiety, the first electrode being in electrical connection with the second electrode; and

iii. a voltage source for electrically connecting the first electrode to the second electrode for applying a ramping potential from the first electrode, through a portion of the chemical moiety in the nanopore to a second electrode to produce a signal indicative of the portion of the chemical moiety.

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~An apparatus as recited in claim 35~~8~~, wherein the ~~biopolymer~~ chemical moiety is translocated in a stepwise fashion through the nanopore defined between the first electrode and the second electrode.

37. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for identifying a chemical moiety from a sample solution, comprising:

(a) a substrate having a channel with at least one array for capturing a chemical moiety from a sample solution; and

(b) a solid state nanopore system downstream from the substrate for identifying the chemical moiety received from the ~~substrate~~-channel after the chemical moiety has been released from the at least one array, the nanopore system comprising

i. a first electrode layer having a first portion of the nanopore extending there through and ~~exposing~~ defining a first electrode edge;

ii. a first insulator layer adjacent to the first electrode layer, the first insulator layer having a second portion of the nanopore there through and defining a first insulator edge, the first insulator edge overhanging the first electrode edge;

iii. a second electrode layer adjacent to the first insulator layer, the second electrode layer having a third portion of the nanopore there through and defining a second electrode edge, the second electrode edge overhanging the first insulator edge; wherein the first electrode and the second electrode may be electrically ramped for sensing the chemical moiety.

38. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, further comprising a second substrate adjacent to the first electrode.

39. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, wherein the first electrode edge defines a first diameter portion of the nanopore, and the first insulator edge defines a second diameter portion of the nanopore, the first diameter portion of the nanopore being smaller than the second diameter portion of the nanopore.

40. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, further comprising a second insulator layer contacting the second electrode layer and being adjacent to the nanopore, the second insulator layer having a fourth portion of the nanopore there through and defining a second insulator edge, the second insulator edge overhanging the second electrode edge.

41. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 403, wherein the second insulator edge defines a third diameter portion of the nanopore, the ~~third~~ second diameter portion of the nanopore being smaller than the ~~second~~ third diameter portion of the nanopore.

42. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, wherein the first electrode layer comprises a ring structure.

43. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, wherein the second electrode layer comprises a ring structure.

44. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, wherein ~~both~~ each of the first electrode layer and the second electrode layer comprises a ring structure.

45. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, further comprising an electric circuit.

46. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 458, wherein the electric circuit further comprises a voltage source for electrically connecting the first electrode layer with the second electrode layer and generating a potential between the first electrode layer and the second electrode layer for sensing a chemical moiety in the nanopore.

47. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 469, wherein the voltage source comprises a time varying voltage source.

48. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 450, where the electric circuit further comprises a current sensor for sensing a resulting current.

49. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, where the first electrode layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, palladium, rhodium, gold, tin, copper, zinc, iron, magnesium, cobalt, nickel, vanadium and their alloys.

50. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, wherein the second electrode layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of platinum, iridium, gold, tin, copper, zinc, iron, magnesium, cobalt, nickel, vanadium and their alloys.



51. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, wherein the nanopore is from 1 nanometer to 300 nanometers.

52. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, wherein the first insulator layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, oxynitride, platinum oxide, and aluminum oxide.

53. (Currently Amended) TheA nanopore structure as recited in claim 4037, wherein the second insulator layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, oxynitride, platinum oxide, and aluminum oxide.